

Hugh S. Taylor, MD

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February 25, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom
The Honorable Alex Kasser
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal
The Honorable John A. Kissel
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Dr. Hugh Taylor. I am testifying in support of Raised Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act. I am the President of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale School of Medicine as well as Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale-New Haven Hospital. I am also affiliated with the Yale Fertility Center and Yale Medicine Greenwich Fertility, which are both committed to providing high-quality fertility care.

For almost a century, ASRM has been the global leader in multidisciplinary reproductive medicine research, ethical practice, and education. ASRM influences reproductive care and science worldwide by creating funding opportunities for advancing reproduction research and discovery, by providing evidence-based education and public health information, and by advocating for reproductive health care professionals and the patients they serve. ASRM is deeply committed to ensuring equitable access to reproductive medicine and to reducing disparities in care.

Outdated state laws pose challenges to our mission by creating uncertainty for our patients and unwarranted legal barriers to parental recognition. Connecticut is in urgent need of comprehensive parentage reform that reflects advances in reproductive medicine and the growing diversity of American families. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) will correct harmful gaps in current Connecticut law by providing paths for individuals who have children through assisted reproduction to establish legal parentage regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or marital status. It also creates standards for the practice of surrogacy to protect the interests of all parties involved: the child, the person acting as surrogate, and the intended parents. Most importantly, the CPA will protect children and enable parents to provide the necessary security for their families, no matter how their family was formed.

It is ASRM's firm belief that those creating families through assisted reproduction—whether married or unmarried, single or coupled, same-sex or different-sex—deserve all the same legal protections that other families receive. I urge the Committee to vote favorably on Bill No. 6321. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh S. Taylor".

Hugh S. Taylor, M.D.

Anita O'Keeffe Professor of Women's Health and Chair
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences
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